

REMARKS

Claims 1-72 remain pending in this application, none of which have been amended. Based on the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Specification Amendment

The specification has been amended to correct an inadvertent error made during the original drafting of the application. In particular, the pivot pint "1940" was changed to "1930," which is the pin that is displaced from the centerline of the base piece, as clearly shown in FIG. 52A. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 45-52 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,270,508 ("Klieman"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, since Klieman does not disclose each and every element required by these claims.

In particular, independent claim 45 requires the pivot for one of the jaws to be spaced from a center axis of the base to provide enhanced gripping. The Examiner is directed to Figs. 51B and 51E and the corresponding text at page 56, line 19 to page 57, line 3, and Fig. 52A and the corrected text at page 58, lines 10-14 for exemplary embodiments of this feature. Although the Examiner has concluded that the pivot 42 about which at least one of the jaws 40, 44 rotates in Klieman is spaced from the center axis of the base 45, such is not the case. As clearly illustrated in Fig. 3A of Klieman, the pivot 42 is actually on the center axis of the base 45.

Claim 47 additionally requires the base to have legs that retain the slide mechanism therebetween, and claim 48 further requires the legs to have elongated slots for receiving the pin. In contrast, the base 45 disclosed in Klieman does not appear to have legs that retain the slide mechanism 30. Claim 50 additionally requires a second pivot for the second jaw, with the first and second pivots being separated from each other and disposed on opposite sides of the center axis of the base. Klieman does not disclose this, since the jaws 40, 44 appear to pivot about the center axis of the base. Claim 51 requires at least one of the jaws to have spaced legs that are each slotted, and claim 52 requires a single tendon for controlling the slide member. No such disclosure can be found in Klieman.

Thus, Applicant submits that claims 45-52 are not anticipated by Klein, and as such, respectfully request withdrawal of the §102 rejections of these claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant graciously acknowledges the allowance of claims 1-44 and 55-72. While Applicant graciously acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 53 and 54 recite patentable subject matter, these claims have not been rewritten in independent form, because it is believed that independent claim 45 from which they depend are allowable, as discussed above. As such, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objections of claims 53 and 54.

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, it is believed that all claims are now allowable and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or

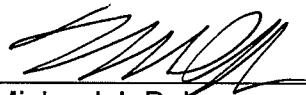
comments regarding this amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at (949) 724-1849.

Respectfully submitted,

VISTA IP LAW GROUP LLP

Dated: 8/24/07

By:


Michael J. Bolan
Reg. No. 42,339

Customer No. 23410
Vista IP Law Group LLP
2040 Main Street, 9th Floor
Irvine, CA 92614